

Eddie Sleeper

From: Robert Schwink <bob_gl1500@yahoo.com>
Sent: Sunday, January 28, 2018 9:23 PM
To: Eddie Sleeper
Subject: Testimony for Jan 30, 2018 Energy Cmte Meeting

Hello

My name is Robert Schwink. My wife, Joyce Starkey and I had our power cut off by DTE on September 9, 2015. My wife suffers from numerous auto immune disorders that made having the Smart Meter on our home a health risk. We chose to install a lock on our meter to prevent its installation. As time passed, DTE contractors had made attempts to install the meter without our consent. Eventually the threatening letters began to arrive stating that we are putting our safety and the safety of our neighbors at risk. We contacted our local fire commissioner for our city. He stated that if there was ever a fire emergency, they would never bother to remove the meter, but merely cut the wire instead. So now we were confident that the lock is not a safety risk. We contacted the mayor of Warren and told him of the threats by DTE and looked for help to prevent the power shut off that was threatened. The mayor called his contact at DTE. Now mind you, we asked the mayor not to do this because we did not want to draw attention to ourselves. He did so anyway. The next day, my wife received a call from a DTE representative, I believe his name is John McCormick. The conversation did not go well. He was very much in support of the meter and did not want to hear or understand my wife's concerns about the negative impact of the meters. The conversation ended without resolution. The next morning, DTE arrived with nine people and 7 vehicles. No contact was made at our door. My wife only knew of their arrival by the sound of the trucks pulling up. Nobody parked directly in front of our home, instead they parked a few doors down in either direction. When my wife exited the house she witnessed 5 men enter the yard of my neighbor to access the pole. Imagine the surprise my elderly neighbors had when this show of force entered their yard unannounced. In addition to the 5 men needed to cut two wires, there was a woman with a security officer standing on the sidewalk. Another man handed my wife an envelope with a letter telling us what they were doing. Problem is, the letter came after the wires were already cut. The woman said nothing but stood there with a self satisfied smile on her face. The men walked right past my neighbor's 2 locked meters and never addressed them. Their meters were locked for the very same reason as ours. I wonder why their meters weren't considered the same safety hazard as mine. My neighbors had kept their analogue meters locked up until October of 2017 until the threats and fear of shut off became too much. They are both in their mid 70's. There isn't a doubt in my mind that we were targeted by DTE because of the phone call from the day before. Also because my wife was present at previous hearings involving the meters. Two other people that my wife knows of also had their power cut on or near the same day. Is it a coincidence they also attended the meetings in Lansing and at the MPSC or were active in promoting smart meter awareness? For that reason, I chose not to come and testify in person. I'm in fear of any further retaliation by DTE. What if we had someone on some sort medical support device that requires electricity? Contact was never made to let us know they were there and why. The power was cut without warning or regard for the people that live in my home. If that wasn't bullying, I don't know what is. Just recently, we got notice that Consumers Energy is planning on doing the same with the gas meters. I hope you have some success with stopping the utility companies from walking all over us. I don't know how we are going to deal with the gas company and their attempt to put in their meters. It will be appreciated if you could refrain from using our name. It took a great deal of work and expense to become independent of their electricity, I can't imagine what we would do if they wanted to shut us down again.

If we can be of any more assistance or if there are further questions, please contact us through this email address or you can call my wife at (586) 899-3354.

Robert Schwink

